(2) how many of them are pucca offices and how many, branch offices ;

(3) had the Government ever had the occasion to abolish a branch office once opened ;

(4) are there not places in the Cochin State where letters are delivered by the Anchal Department 4 and 5 days after posting?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(1) Seventy-one.

(2) 34 Head and Sub-offices and 37 Branch offices.

(3) Yes.

(4) No.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.— Will the Government be pleased to say how many days it will take for a letter posted here to reach Meenakshipuram?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I want notice.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Sub-division (3). How many were abandoned after opening and in what places?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—What happens is this. New offices are opened under a guarantee and if there is any deficit and if the person who has offered the guarantee is not willing to renew it, then automatically we stop work. There might have been several instances of the kind. I cannot enumerate them.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Therefore, am I to understand that the abolition was due to lack of guarantee?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Yes. Whenever a new office is opened we always take a guarantee and if it fails or if there is any deficit in the Branch Office it will be closed.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Am I to infer that no office is closed for want of work?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It means the same thing. If there is work there will be persons to guarantee.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Have there not been repeated applications from the Koonamoochi people offering guarantees as well?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I don't remember if there was any guarantee. If there was a guarantee there was no cause for refusing that request. I don't know whether there are any special circumstances in this case.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Am I to understand that if there is a reasonable guarantee and if there is a request it will be opened?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Yes. It will be opened.

Notification of appointment of Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar.

222. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

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(a) what the 'other duty' on which M. R. Ry. T. S. Narayana Ayyar Avl., M. A., B. L., is placed mentioned in the Government Notification No. 266, published in the Government Gazette, dated 14th Edavam 1108;

(b) was that 'other duty' on which he was placed published in the Gazette at the time of the appointment or subsequently;

(c) if the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, will a copy of the same be placed on the Council table ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(a) The duty entrusted to the Special Officer is of a confidential and political nature.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know whether the fact that Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar is placed on special duty was ever notified by the Government?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I don't think any Gazette notification is necessary.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know why that notification was not published?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It was not found necessary.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know whether this gentleman is paid any salary and under what designation?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Yes. He draws his pay as Special Officer.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—What is the pay that he draws?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Rs. 750.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—How long has he been placed on special duty?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—For the last eight months.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—How long is he to continue?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I can't exactly say.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I know, Sir, for what he is Special Officer?

President.—It is an ironical question.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—The Government says that the duties entrusted to him is of a confidential and political nature. Is privacy permissible in politics?

President.—That is not a supplementary question.

Final orders in the Gothuruthy School affair.

223. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether the enquiry regarding the Gothuruthy School (referred to in question No. 442 of the Legislative Session of 1108) has been completed;

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